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Feb 26th 2019

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Preserving the right of our consumers to choose competitive local network providers matters, not just because local providers offer great customer service and lower prices, but also because they represent a protection of freedom of speech. Fewer connectivity choices means, inevitably, that silencing speech that carriers find disagreeable or simply unprofitable is inevitable. As Americans become more and more reliant on electronic communication, the need to keep speech free means that preserving last -mile connectivity choice is critical.

Thanks for your consideration,

Alison Chaiken